

VZCZCXRO8322  
RR RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEHKUK RUEHROV  
DE RUEHAM #1689/01 2091427  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
R 281427Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5609  
INFO RUEHHE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 001689

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 07/23/2019  
TAGS PGOV, KDEM, SOCI, JO  
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN SOCCER GAME HALTED AMIDST ANTI-REGIME  
CHANTS, HOOLIGANISM TOWARD PALESTINIANS

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Lawrence Mandel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (S) Summary: Anti-Palestinian hooliganism and slogans denigrating the Palestinian origins of both the Queen and the Crown Prince led to the Faisali 0, Wahdat 0, PPD (Riot)

¶2. (C) Jordanian police intervened to stop fan violence and the chanting of anti-regime slogans during a July 17 match between Amman soccer cl A Storied Rivalry

¶3. (U) Faisali and Wahdat serve as the proxy champions of the East Banker and Palestinian communities, respectively. Faisali, whose name refer

¶4. (C) Wahdat, which takes its name from the large Palestinian refugee camp on the southern side of Amman, is seen as the favored team of Pale Game Over

¶5. (S) Faisali-Wahdat games have a long history of hooliganism and politically motivated violence. Past matches have been shut down by the pol Official Fallout

¶6. (SBU) Official reaction to the match was surprisingly pro-forma. Prince Ali, half-brother to the King and chairman of the Jordanian Football Media Silence, Internet Cacophony AMMAN 00001689 002 OF 002

¶7. (C) Despite all of the official condemnations of Faisali and its supporters, none of Jordan's self-censoring media featured descriptive new

¶8. (SBU) Internet news sites, however, were full of commentary on the game and its implications. Many defended the Faisali supporters as "real Comment

¶9. (S) There is broad recognition throughout Jordan that the Faisali-Wahdat incident exposed the uncomfortable gap between East Bankers and Pa

¶10. (S) The King's silence on the game and its political implications is deafening. High level government contacts and members of the diplomat